Remarks

Claims 1-37 are pending in the subject application prior to entry of this Amendment. Of those claims, claims 5-10 and 22-24 are allowed.

Remaining claims 1-4, 11-21 and 25-37 were rejected in the outstanding Office Action. In particular, claims 1-4, 14-15 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Crosby (US 4857020) in view of Goto (US 5044996). Claims 11-13, 16-21, 25-32 and 34-37 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Crosby in view of Goto and further in view of Herron (US 6193565). The Examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Independent claims 1, 16, 25, 28 and 32 have been amended to recite advantageous features of Applicants' anti-reverse clip. In particular, claim 1 recites, in part, that the "anti-reverse clip comprises a portion with an anti-reverse tab and a removal tab located proximate the anti-reverse tab." Claim 16 also recites, in part, "at least one wedge movement anti-reverse clip mounted to a top side of the body and contacting one of the wedges, wherein the anti-reverse clip comprises a portion with an anti-reverse tab which contacts one of the wedges, and a removal tab located proximate the anti-reverse tab." Claim 25 includes, in part, that the "connector further comprises an anti-reverse clip member attached to a top side of the body, the member comprising an anti-reverse tab for contacting serrations on a top side of one of the wedges and a removal tab located proximate the anti-reverse tab." Claim 28 now also includes, in part, "a removal tab located proximate the anti-reverse tab." Claims 19, 20 and 27 have been canceled.

As described in the specification at page 12, beginning at line 27, according to an embodiment of the invention, the anti-reverse tab 102 extends in a general orthogonal direction relative to the removal tab 100. The removal tab 100 allows a tool such as a slotted screwdriver, to be inserted under the tab 100 for lifting the tab 100 upward. By lifting this removal tab 100 upward, the anti-reverse tab 102 disengages from the wedge serrations 68 on the wedge 18. This allows the wedges 18, 20 to be retracted backward towards the center of the frame 12. This gives the installer the ability to make adjustments during installation. It also gives the ability to remove the connector once installed.

In contrast, Crosby merely discloses a tap connector having a body with a general C-shaped cross section (Fig. 1). As recognized by the Examiner, Crosby does not disclose an anti-reverse clip connected to its body.

Applicants respectfully assert that the addition of Herron and/or Goto does not cure the shortcomings of Crosby. That is, Herron discloses a splicing connector comprising a connector shell having a general "H-shaped" cross section which defines a first conductor receiving channel and a second conductor receiving channel opposite of the first conductor receiving channel (Abstract; Col. 3, lines 21-40; Fig. 3C). Herron further discloses that the "H-shaped configuration of the connector shell also allows for rapid and inexpensive fabrication by forging or die cast" (Col.6, lines 51-54).

Herron does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed anti-reverse clip, including the advantageous anti-reverse tab and

removal tab, as recited in independent claims 1, 16, 25, 28 and 32.

Similarly, Goto does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed electrical conductor splice connector and method of assembling an electrical conductor splice connector, whether Goto is viewed alone or in combination with Herron and/or Crosby. For example, Goto merely teaches a two-part wedge connector. The wedge 12 includes body member 18 having converging sides 20 provided with outwardly facing concave grooves, as shown in Fig. 1. Member 14 located over wedge 12 includes shell member 42 whose sides 44 have been rolled over to define channels 48, as shown in Fig. 6 of Goto.

Applicants respectfully assert that there is no teaching or suggestion in Crosby, Herron or Goto that would motivate one skilled in the art to combine and then modify the teachings of these references in an attempt to arrive at the present claims.

All of the features of independent claims 1, 16, 25, 28 and 32 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, these claims are patentable and should be allowed. Similarly, dependent claims 2-4, 11-15, 17-18, 21, 26, 29-31 and 33-37 depend directly or indirectly from an allowable independent claim and are therefore allowable by definition.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that application is in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved

issue remain, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representative at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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